



# EDUCATION THAT IS MULTICULTURAL

200 W. Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

*Revised May 2001*

## ***What are the goals of Education That Is Multicultural in Maryland?***

Education That Is Multicultural is a process which involves schools and communities working to fulfill the following goals:

- To prepare students to live, learn, interact, work, and participate productively in our multicultural democratic society
- To promote student achievement through the use of resources and classroom practices that reflect the diversity and commonalities of students, cultural groups, and communities
- To provide pre-kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum and instruction that enable students to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of cultural groups in Maryland and the United States
- To foster respect for individuals regardless of factors such as region, socio-economic status, race, disability, national origin, and gender.

## ***What are the responsibilities of local school systems in implementing Education That Is Multicultural?***

Each local school system in Maryland has developed a five-year planning cycle to address multicultural issues related to curriculum, instruction and staff development. Plans reflect the responsibilities outlined in Education That Is Multicultural Regulations adopted by the State Board of Education in 1994 (COMAR 13A.04.05). Local school systems submit annual progress reports on their plans to the Maryland State Department of Education.

## ***What types of programs are implemented in local school systems?***

Examples of school system programs include expanding curriculum guidelines to reflect a greater depth of information about the contributions of diverse groups, offering teacher training courses on multicultural education, establishing resource centers for use by educators, and providing educational activities to promote understanding and reduce prejudice.

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***What resources and services does the Maryland State Department of Education provide?***

The Maryland State Department of Education maintains a reference collection of multicultural books and has published and distributed to all public schools “Multicultural Connections,” an annotated multicultural resource directory for educators. The Department also provides on-going assistance to local school systems in developing and implementing their five-year plans.

In fulfillment of the State regulations, the Maryland State Department of Education reports progress annually to the State Board of Education and promotes an inclusive multicultural focus in state assessments, publications, and school improvement initiatives.

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***Where can I get more information about Education That Is Multicultural?***

Contact the Equity Assurance and Compliance Branch at 410-767-0425 or call your local school system central office for the name of the individual responsible for coordinating the implementation of Education That Is Multicultural.



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